

AUTOGRAPHA BRACTEA D. & S. (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE) IN WORCESTERSHIRE.—The recent southward spread of this species has been well chronicled, but I was interested to find on 30th/31st July a worn male in the light trap, which I was running in my son's garden at Blackwell, near Bromsgrove. This seems to mark a considerable further extension of its known territory in the Midlands. — R. F. BRETHERTON, Folly Hill, Birtley Green, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey GU5 0LE, 9.8.75.

AN EARLY DATE FOR LEPTIDEA SINAPIS LINN. IN 1975.—I was surprised to find a specimen of the Wood White on 4th May, 1975 in its well-known area on the Sussex-Surrey border, but on a further visit in fairly good conditions on 23rd May no further examples were seen, though I have heard of a number being observed in this region on 28th May. — C. G. M. DE WORMS, Three Oaks, Woking.

PANOLIS FLAMMEA D. & S. (PINIPERDA PANZ.): AN EARLY DATE AND LONG PERIOD OF EMERGENCE.—I was surprised to find a Pine Beauty in my m.v. trap here on 17th February, and on 27th May another one that was still fresh, thus denoting an emergence period of over three months. — C. G. M. DE WORMS, Three Oaks, Woking, 30.v.1975.

LOBOPHORA HALTERATA HUEN. F. ZONATA THUNBERG AT WOKING.—That pretty little geometer, the Seraphim, is an infrequent visitor to my m.v. trap, but on 9th May, 1975 I was surprised to see an extreme example in the male of this form f. *zonata* in which the central area of the forewings is very ochreous without a trace of the normal dark speckling. I have had recourse to view the series of the Rothschild-Cockayne-Kettlewell collection in the Natural History Museum to find that this variety is much more prevalent in specimens from Perthshire, especially in the female. In fact there were only some four males of this form from those northerly parts and I could find none of this sex from England. So that I thought the record of it in Surrey worth mentioning in the hope that others will be found from southern England. — C. G. M. DE WORMS, Three Oaks, Woking.

STENEPTERYX HIRUNDINIS (L.) ON JUVENILE HOUSE MARTIN.—Referring to S. N. A. Jacob's recent note (*Ent. Rec.*, 1975, 87: 26-27) on *Stenepteryx hirundinis* (L.) on juvenile House Martin (*Delichon urbica* (L.)) in which he suggests these flies might have a narcotic effect via the blood stream—I am not aware of any evidence to support this possibility.

It is difficult to decide whether hippoboscids or other types of ectoparasites are responsible for the weakened condition of birds or they have simply taken advantage of it. The host is the greatest enemy of the parasite. Data available show, in spite of the blood loss, whole broods are successfully reared. Instances of populations of these flies, varying between 2 or 3 to 100 plus in single nests are known. — GORDON B. THOMPSON, 56 Beaumont Road, Cambridge CB1 4PY.